

image
PAUL
GRIST

BRITAIN'S GREATEST VILLAIN!

13

\$3.50
\$4.00 CAN

JACK STAFF

WHO DO YOU CALL WHEN YOUR WHOLE
WORLD TURNS INSIDE OUT?



image[®]

COMICS PRESENTS

JACK STAFF

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I've spent too much
time in graveyards

I've watched too
many people die.

I've heard too many
preachers talk about
the 'resurrection
of the dead.'

I've seen the
resurrection
of the dead.

Dead's better.

I've been going
about this all
wrong.

That's changed.

Now I'm taking
the fight to them.

I've been fighting a battle.

I should have been fighting
a war.

I was content to
let them come to me.

I've followed
his smell
all night.

It's not been
difficult.

He's the one who
started this war.

Me? I'm the one
who's going to
end it.

HEY
YOU--
**FANG
FACE!**

It's the stench
of EVIL, the
scent of
HATRED.

I'm a reporter.
Well, I used to be.

Things change.

**Becky
Burdock**
VAMPIRE HUNTER

HAROLD!



You've heard of
DRACULA, right?



The vampire, bogie man
who personifies the
evil of the undead?

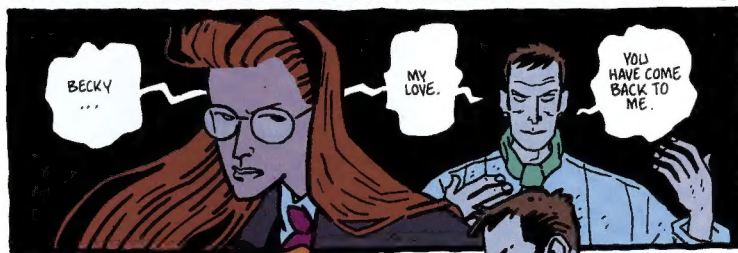
Albert Bramble makes
DRACULA look like
CLIFF RICHARD.



BECKY
...

MY LOVE.

YOU
HAVE COME
BACK TO
ME.



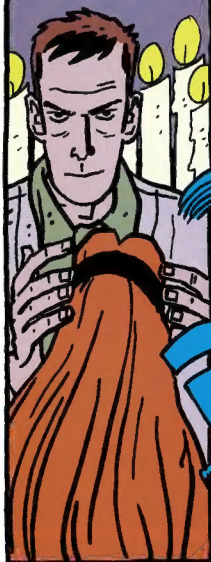
Harold Bramble.
His words are
the words of
a LIAR.

NOW
WE SHALL
LIVE
FOR
EVER.

TOGETHER.



His smile is the
smile of a deceiver.



He's not
going to lie
to anyone
again.



I allow myself a
moment of satisfaction.



It's over. It
ends here. Now.

It's a
moment
too long.





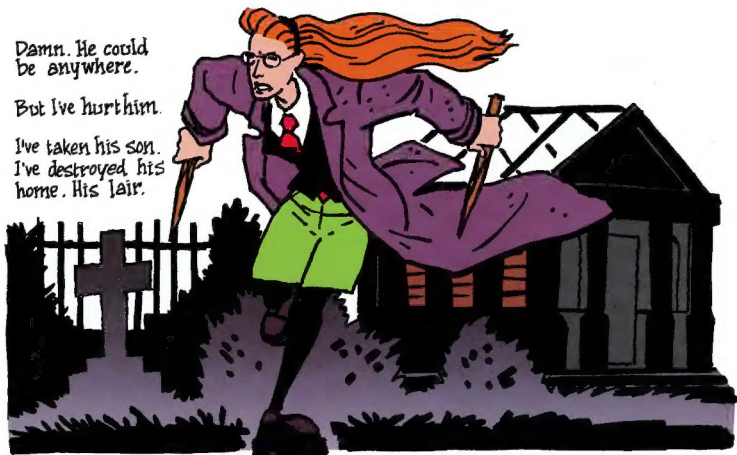




Damn. He could
be anywhere.

But I've hurt him.

I've taken his son.
I've destroyed his
home. His lair.



He's on the
run now.

Now HE knows what
it's like to be the
PREY.

squeak



ACK!



I said I used to be a reporter...

I don't know why.

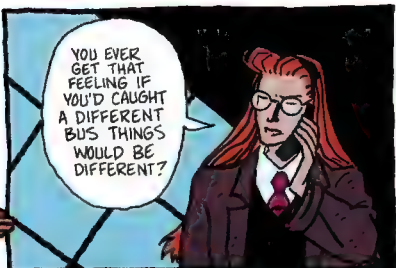
ALRIGHT!
ALRIGHT!
**TAKE
THE
PAPERS!**

JEEZ!
WHY
CAN'T
YOU
GO
TO
THE
NEWS
AGENT
LIKE
EVERY
ONE
ELSE?

There's something
WRONG here.

I never
was

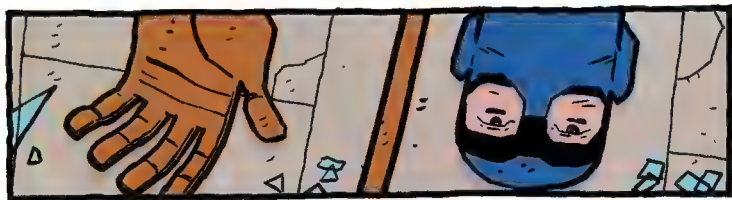
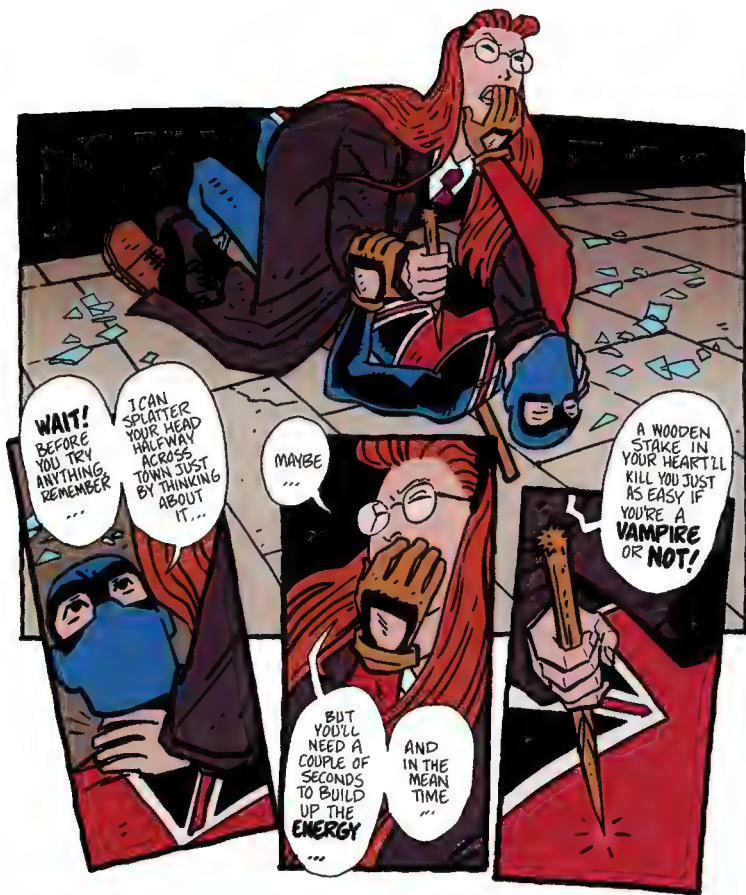




SOCIETY
SETS THE RULES—
HE **BREAKS** THEM!
HE'S THE SCOURGE OF
AUTHORITY!
HE TWEAKS THE NOSE OF
THE ESTABLISHMENT!
HE'S **BRITAIN'S GREATEST
VILLAIN!**

JACK STAFF



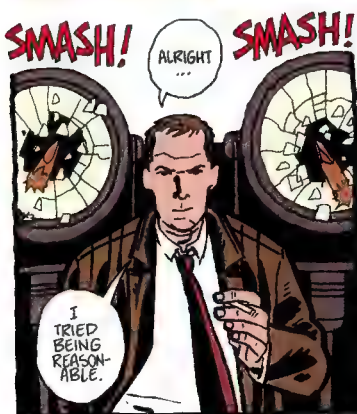


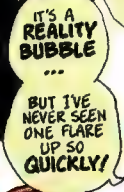
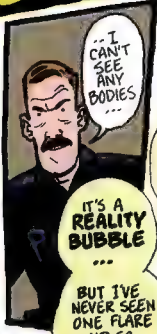
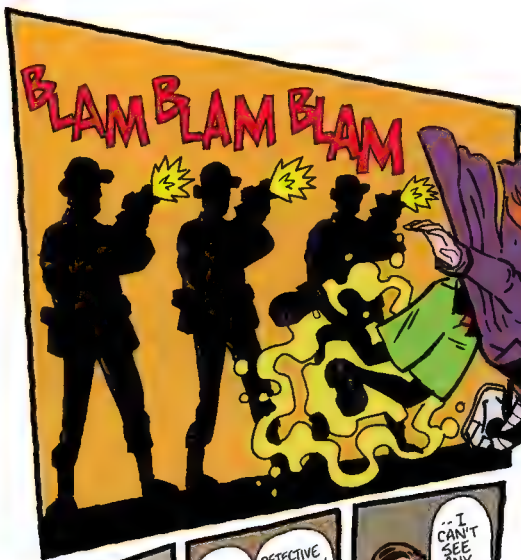


ARMED
POLICE!

NOBODY
MOVE!







LOOK HARDER
...

THEY
CAN'T
JUST HAVE
VANISHED
INTO THIN
AIR!

AND
YOU
ARE?

ROCKY REALITY
TEMPORAL
REALITY
AGENT!

oh NOW
EVERY
THING
MAKES
SENSE.

YOU
MESS WITH
REALITY—
YOU MESS
WITH
ME!

WAIT A
MINUTE
...

AREN'T YOU
CONCERNED
THERE'S A
MONKEY
IN CHARGE
OF **REALITY?**

HEY,
HE'S A
MONKEY
WITH
HIS OWN
**THEME
TUNE**
...

THAT'S
REALITY
--DEAL
WITH IT!

NOW
COME ON
GUYS
...

WE
NEED TO
SORT THIS
MESS
OUT...
FAST!

AND JUST
FOR THE
RECORD,
IT'S **CHIMP**,
NOT MONKEY,
OKAY?

IF NORMALITY is out of WHACK
Rocky Reality
WHACKS IT BACK!



EXCUSE ME, BUT WHAT EXACTLY DOES A TEMPORAL REALITY AGENT DO?

OKAY, YOU THINK REALITY IS FIXED, DON'T YOU? WELL IT'S NOT! IT'S **CHAOS**, BELIEVE ME.

IT'S CONSTANTLY SHIFTING, CHANGING. MY JOB IS TO KEEP THINGS THE WAY THEY **SHOULD** BE.

ONLY NOW THIS HUGE REALITY ANOMALY SEEMS TO HAVE SPRUNG UP AND BUGGERED **EVERYTHING** UP! I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP TO SORT THIS MESS OUT!

SO WHERE DO WE FIND THIS **REALITY ANOMALY**?

I ALREADY HAVE! IT'S YOU TWO!

YOU'RE NOT THE PEOPLE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ...

AND UNLESS I GET YOU BACK WHERE YOU **SHOULD** BE, THEN EVERYTHING STARTS TO UNRAVEL!

WHOA!
WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

WHERE DID EVERYTHING GO?

IT'S A REALITY BLIP

IT'S REALITY'S WAY OF DEALING WITH ITS PROBLEMS ...

SHUTS DOWN THEN STARTS UP AGAIN ...

BUT IF IT KEEPS DOING THAT, EVENTUALLY EVERYTHING COLLAPSES IN ON ITSELF!

OKAY - THIS IS **BAD**, BUT AT LEAST WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY **SWEEPER FISH**



OKAY - I'M GUESSING THIS **ISN'T** GOOD ...

...YET

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE'RE NOT THE PEOPLE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE?

LOOK - I DON'T MAKE THE RULES ...

I'M JUST SORTING OUT THE MESS.

OKAY ...

A LITTLE LESS EXPLANATION ...



A LITTLE MORE ACTION PLEASE!

THESE THINGS JUST KEEP ON COMING!

OVER HERE! **QUICKLY** - WE'VE GOT LESS TIME THAN I THOUGHT!

SWEPPER FISH!

THEY'RE REALITY'S LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO GET RID OF ANY ANOMALY BEFORE EVERYTHING STARTS TO FALL APART! OF COURSE, TOO MANY SWEEPER FISH COULD DESTROY REALITY ANYWAY...

IT'S JUST A ROW OF DOORS ...

EVERYTHING'S GONE AGAIN ...

JUST KEEP GOING—
STRAIGHT ON!

IT'S THE DOOR RIGHT AT THE END!

IT'S A **TIME CORRIDOR**.

WE NEED TO GO BACK ABOUT SIX MINUTES—THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING WENT HAY-WIRE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN **SIX MINUTES?**

MY WHOLE LIFE JUST HAPPENED IN THE LAST SIX MINUTES?! THAT'S CRAZY—I CAN REMEMBER

THIS ONE?

NO!

IT'S THE **STONE**—THEY'RE COLLECTING ALL THE BITS ...

THEY WANT TO BRING **HIM BACK!**

BUT IF THEY **DO** THEN **EVERYONE DIES!**

NOT THAT ONE!

ODDS ARE THE **FUTURE** EVENS THE **PAST!**

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

TRUST ME, WE'VE GOT **ENOUGH** TO WORRY ABOUT!

SLAM

Explore a mystery
from the dawn of
recorded time...

CASTLETOWN
POINT!



See the
MUDDY MAN

and...

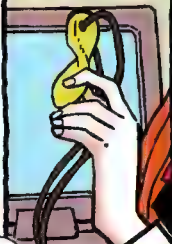


and...

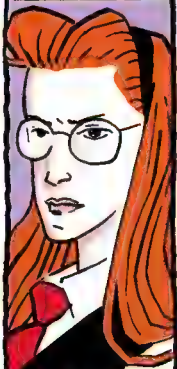
What is this
thing anyway...

some kind of
fossilised
Pringle?

Is this what it's
come to ...moon-
lighting writing
brochures for
the local tourist
Attractions?



This isn't the
LIFEPLAN I had
in mind.



Certainly not
the whole
VAMPIRE thing.

WHAT?

NO!
WAIT A
MINUTE!

LITTLE
BUGGERS
KEEP TURNING
UP WHEN
YOU LEAST
EXPECT IT -
MAKE THE
HOLDER'S
THOUGHTS
BECOME
REALITY.

I'VE
GOT A
COPY
HERE
...

IF
WE CAN
SWAP
THE TWO
BEFORE
REALITY
SWITCHES
...

HEY!
LOOK -
THAT'S
ME!

THIS IS
IT... THIS
IS WHERE
REALITY
DIVERGED
...

Ah -
A REALITY
ROCK!
THAT EXPLAINS
A LOT.

THAT'S
THE
TWISTED
STONE!

REALITY
ROCK?



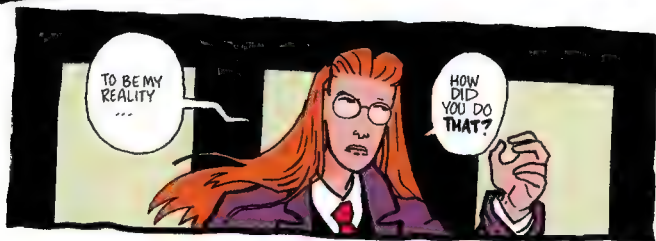
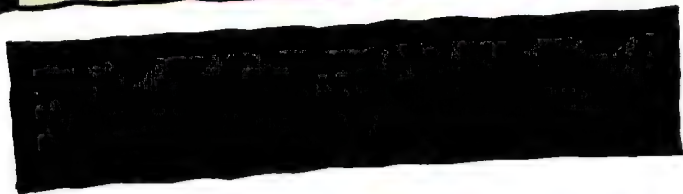
BECKY BURDOCK VAMPIRE REPORTER

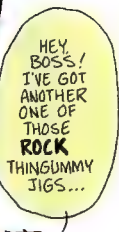
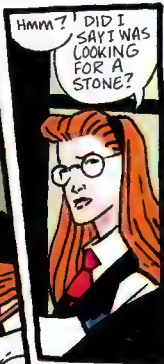






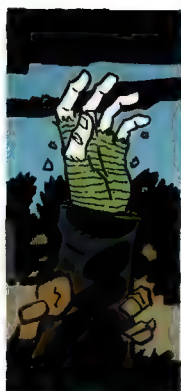






AND SO EVERYTHING IN CASTLETOWN RETURNED TO HOW IT ALWAYS HAD BEEN...





WELL, ALMOST
EVERYTHING.



**WRITE TO
STAFF POST
PO BOX 104
HIGHBRIDGE TA9 4WD**

EMAIL
paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE:



**Stick on stick action as Jack
Staff meets Mister Punch
- and the return of Zipper and
his chums!**

Great News Inside For all our Readers! This is a phrase that would strike fear into the hearts of British comic readers of a certain age when they saw them on the front cover of their favourite comic. It was basically comic code for This Comic Is Going To Be Cancelled, and sure enough the following week your favourite comic would be merged into another comic with two or three strips carried over into the new title. Great news indeed.

FLAG WAVING

I've been getting a lot of questions about Burglar Bill lately. New readers start here: Burglar Bill was a comic I self-published 4 years ago which got as far as issue 3 but then came to a halt when the sales dropped to a point where I couldn't afford to carry on printing it. Image took up the baton and starting again with issue 1 ran to issue 4 before sales reached a point where it really wasn't worth carrying on. I should at this point make it clear that this was my decision - Image would have been prepared to carry on putting it out and then collect it in a trade, even though financially it wasn't pulling its own weight. Image is great, but it just wasn't working.

And that's how it's been since the end of 2005. And I know readers have found that a bit frustrating, especially since some people have bought this comic twice over and it's still not finished...

So here's what I'm going to do. Starting next issue of Jack Staff I'm going to be running 7 or 8 page chunks of Burglar Bill, which will give me chance to conclude the story and then the whole thing can be collected in a single volume at a later date. It's not an ideal solution but it's one that makes a lot of sense to me. It's certainly better than just putting out a book collection so everyone has to buy the book to find out how it ends!

And now a short commercial break...

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available direct from me - of the original black and white series, issues 3 - 7 and 9 - 11 are \$2.95 US £1.80 UK. Issue 8 is \$4.50 US £3.25 UK and issue 12 is \$3.50 US £2.50 UK. Image issues 1 - 4 are \$2.95 US £2.10 UK and issues 5 onwards are \$3.50 US £2.50 UK. Prices are for single issues and US orders please add an extra \$2.00 to the total to cover postage. All cheques payable to Paul Grist.

ORIGINAL ART FOR SALE

Single pages of the original black and white art for Jack Staff are available at £55UK \$85US each. Prices include postage. Please list alternatives in case your first choice has already gone, or contact me by e-mail if you want to check and/or reserve a page. Pages from the original Dancing Elephant issues are available as well as the Image run! Cheques payable to Paul Grist.

Dancing Elephant Press, P.O. Box 104, Highbridge, TA9 4WD, England.

STAFF POST

P.O. Box 104 Highbridge, TA9 4WD, England

e-mail paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk

Win an original Jack Staff drawing! Each issue I will select a Letter of the Month from those printed in the letters page and the writer of that letter will get an original drawing of a Jack Staff character. My choice. So send in those letters and drawings and you could be the envy of all your friends!

Okay, some of these letters have been hanging round a while as the last few issues have been running a little long on the story, so let's not waste any more time, and on with the show...

Dear Paul,

I'm a little confused here. Does this book star a guy named Jack Staff or not? Cause I never really see the union-sulted guy from the covers and whatnot in the actual stories! I really, really think this book could be more comprehensive --ya know? Cause I don't comprehend much of it! I know quality when I read it though, and you got it. By the way, the black and white middle part of this series? Down the crapper! 'Kay? It's black and white and after a few issues I stopped reading it at all. Boy you sure seem british, Grist! Do you read anything halfway American? Kapitän Krieg? What's A Krieg?? What universe does this series take place in? Are crossovers IMpossible?...or just not likely? How come you can do a color series, yet it's bi-monthly or something? Usually don't work like that, do it? Is Jack Staff a hero or a villain??? Cause it says Britain's Greatest HE-RO on the cover, right? Not exactly what it says inside though, now is it? Oh well. Bye!...

Andrew J Shaw

No, no I think if you check the cover it says Britain's Greatest Villain. I hope that clears up the confusion.

Dear Mr. Grist

It's not very often that I write into comic letter pages, in fact this is the first time I've ever done it, but there is something about your comics that makes me feel I should take a moment and do so.

I was introduced to your work through the first Kane volume put out by Image. It was mostly by accident, it had just come out and was laying on the Trade Paperback table waiting to be shelved, when I picked it up and started thumbing through it. I was on a 'New Image' kick at the time, stuff like *Invincible*, *Firebreather* and *Noble Causes* had got me looking at Image in a fresh light and so I impulsively picked up Kane: Greetings from New Eden looking for something new and fresh.

That's exactly what I got, one of the best crime fiction comics I'd ever ran into. Your way writing style, of telling two stories at once, one in the past and one in the present, with the two being connected, revealing story points for the other as each progressed, was in a word, genius. I'd never seen anybody do that form of writing as well in all my days as a reader. When I made the jump to Jack Staff on the Everything Used to be Black and White trade I found more of that great literary device and more of your fantastic character design. From that point on you were on my 'Creator Watch' list. I pick up everything I can get my hands on, Jack Staff, Kane and Buglar Bill. From the writing to the art you've inspired me more in a handful of releases than many writers do in their entire career. I can't wait for more.

I have a question though. What were your influences? With DC/Wildstorm's upcoming *Albion* I noticed a few similarities between your characters and those being reintroduced there. Were these the kind of comics you were exposed to when younger? What about 2000 AD? The DC reprint line grabbed my attention recently and I've begun getting the regularly now. I can't believe the wealth of UK based comics I've never been exposed to. American comics aren't a patch on some of these works, of which yours definitely stands side by side with.

So thanks for all the great comic experiences you've given me so far, and opening my eyes to the world of import works from Great Britain. You've definitely made my reading collection that more diverse.

Your fan

James Purcell

Yes, a few of the supporting characters are loosely (some more loosely than others) based on British comic characters from the 1960's. At the time I started Jack Staff I figured that only a handful of comic readers would remember them, let alone care. How was I to know the great Brit revival was just around the corner?

I don't know how easy this would be to get hold of in the US but I'd recommend getting hold of a copy of a trade paperback published by Pannini (who are the Marvel comics publisher here in the UK), which collects the original *Captain Britain* series from 1976 - 77, written (initially) by Chris Claremont and drawn by Herb Trimpe and Fred Kida. This was the first comic strip produced by Marvel for the UK market and (as far as I know) has never been reprinted or collected in any form since. It has to be said that the story meanders a bit after Claremont goes but the art is great throughout and some of the Claremont episodes are terrific! British Superhero with a staff - that's a good idea! And the comic was originally edited by Neil Tennant, and yes pap pickers, it is that Neil Tennant!

Paul,

Just wanted to send some appreciations to you for your consistently good and entertaining and exceptionally well-done comics. It was great to pick up Jack Staff this past Thursday (we had a holiday so books were a day late). Whenever I want to show someone how magical comics and sequential storytelling can be I try to show them something of yours.

Thanks for bringing a little joy into my life every other month or so.

Brian Juchems

P.S.

The Kane tpb in the most recent previews collects the final single issues, right? Someone was trying to convince me that it was new material, but I don't think that's the case.

Kane book 6 Partners, out now, contains the last remaining uncollected issues of Kane, apart from issue 30 which didn't really fit in with the stories and will now form the basis of an all-new Kane story which will probably be called Previous.

Dear Jack Staff:

Boy, there is a lot of things going on with Jack Staff #10! The story opens up like The DaVinci Code as the collector of antiques is introduced. Then action begins as the gun totin' thief does his thievery at a jewelry store that is across the street from the police station. Talk about unnerving! Then here comes Nostradamus... well, I mean Morlan the Mystic. Morlan was a bit of Nostradamus combined with Rasputin. Morlan had John Smith confused with his prophecies and the simplicity of not buying eggs seems outrageous to John Smith, but I suppose John Smith needs to listen to this mysterious man! Buy those eggs John and pay the consequences!

Sincerely yours,

Paul Dale Roberts, Jazma Operative
www.jazmaonline.com

And let's finish as we started with another one from Mr Confused USA, with his comments on issue 12:

Dear Paul Grist,

I'm more confused by this book than ever! I think you're a good writer, funny even. But Jack Staff, who - wonder of wonders - actually appeared in this issue, is really just a ripoff anyway; anyone who's seen his costume will know that. The artwork is okay, but if the story is confusing and not entertaining enough, then COME ON! Why doesn't this take place in the Image Universe anyway?! My advice is to meet with Erik Larsen--you know, your colorist?!--and make something more practical and real out of this book! Cause I'm done. That's it. Hasta la vista, Grist-yl!

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Shaw

It's as much as I can do to stop Erik from colouring Jack Staff green. You'll be pleased to know that there are plans for an appearance of Jack Staff in the pages of Savage Dragon later this year. And for your insightful comments consider yourself the winner of this month's drawing, this time of John Smith!

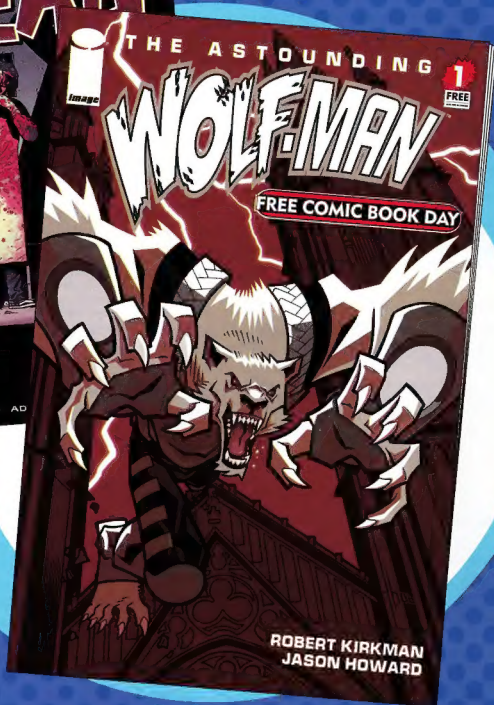
Next month should see the appearance of the Weird World of Jack Staff, featuring a revised and expanded version of the strip that ran in Comics International, and then a month later Jack Staff 14 - featuring the return of Calendar Girl Lynda Jones!

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

SATURDAY-MAY 5, 2007

First, he brought you **INVINCIBLE**...

Then **THE WALKING DEAD**...



This May, **Robert Kirkman** brings you his exciting new creation:
THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN
featuring art by Jason Howard, bi-monthly from Image Comics!
And be sure to get the first issue for **FREE** on Free Comic Book Day 2007!

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A dynamic manga-style illustration depicting a fierce battle. On the left, a large tiger with a brown and black striped coat is shown in a pouncing or roaring pose, its mouth open showing sharp teeth. On the right, a man with dark, spiky hair and a determined, slightly pained expression is shown. He is wearing a red jacket or shirt. The background is filled with bright yellow lightning bolt-like streaks and a large, stylized red 'X' shape. The overall tone is intense and action-packed.

A TWIT AND FOOL SCAN...

DON'T
LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU